(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Lack of operational and commercial viability.

धोला रोड़ स्थित रेलवे क्रासिंग पर ओवर ब्रिज का निर्माण

759. **श्री राघवजी**: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतानेकी कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भोपाल नगर निगम ने धोला रोड़ स्थित रेलवे क्रासिंग पर ओवर ब्रिज बनाने के लिए अपनी सहमती रेलवे को दे दी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में रेल मंत्रालय द्वारा क्या निर्णय लिया गया है; यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है तथा यह निर्णय कब तक ले लिया जाएगा; और

(ग) निर्णय लेने में देरी के क्या कारण है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) धोला रोड़ के रूप में कोई रोड़ नहीं है । बहरहाल, भोपाल में धोला रोड़ है वहां ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Proposal for a train from Patna to Katihar

760. SHRI JAGDAMBI MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no train for Katihar is available at Patna during the day, whereas the Members of Parliament coming from Delhi to Patna by Air have to wait at Patna for about ten hrs. to catch train for Katihar at night;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce a new train from Patna to Katihar during the day, connecting flight at Patna; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, what alternative arrangement is proposed to provide day train facility to passengers going to Katihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. However, 5645 Dadar-Guwahati Express (bi-weekly) is providing a day time service between Patna and Katihar.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There are five pairs of trains serving Patna-Katihar sector adequately. Introduction of a day time train between Patna and Katihar is not feasible at present due to operational and secource constraints.

New amenity for Railway Passengers

761. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new amenity has been introduced for the Railway passengers during the first six months of the current financial year; i.e. April-September, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore; and

(c) whether Government would now introduce some amenities for the Railway passengers performing long distance journeys in Super fast trains between New Delhi and various State Capitals, especially in view of the specific assurance by the Railway Minister in this behalf at the time of presentation of Railway Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Provision/augmentation of passenger amenities/facilities on the trains as well as at the stations is a continuous process which depend on the factors like the quantum of passenger traffic, requirement of the station, etc. Some of the important amenities/facilities provided during the last six months are as

under:-

(i) Supply of Bed rolls to all the passengers in AC 3 tier coaches without realising the cha rges;

(ii) I ntroduction of tatkal reservati on scheme in a large number of trains;

(iii) Linking of Delhi & Secunderabad PRSs with Calcutta PRS, thereby providing on line reservation facility to passengers for trains defined on Calcutta, New Delhi and Secunderabad PRSs;

(iv) Introduction of Passenger Information System for providing up-to-date information about train running, etc. in Delhi and Mumbai;

(v) Provision of computerised reservation facility at various towns;

(vi) Provision of Interactive Vocie Reponse System at some stations;

(vii) Introduction of new IRY coaches in Swarna Shatabdi Express for better ride index;

(viii) In the direction of providing cooking free platform, sophisticated bainmarie machines have been provided to start with at New Delhi Station. This will provide fresh and hot meal prepared in the hygienic condition;

(ix) Two superfact trains from each Zonal Railway have been identified for providing upgraded passenger amenities, including catering services with a view to provide better services to the passenger travelling long distance;

(x) Railways have spent Rs. 40.13 crore up to September, 1998 for provision/ augmentation of amenities at stations like extension/raising/widening of platforms, renovation fo station buildings, provision of Food-over-bridges, augmentation of waiting facilities, drinking water supply, washable aprons, etc. at various stations all over Indian Railways;

(xi) Public Address system introduced on EMU services in Mumbai Area;

(xii) Quality of Train lighting improved by converting 24 V system to 110 V system.

1213 No. coaches converted from April to October, 1998, etc.

Pilgrim train for pilgrim places in Hyderabad

762. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce a pilgrim train, on the lines of Palace on Wheals, originating and terminating at Hyderabad, with stops at Mantralayan, Puttaparthi, Tirupati and other places of pilgrim importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A proposal to introduce a special train on this circuit has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. The introduction of the train can be considered if suitable offers are received for investment, management and marketing of this train from the tourism industry or other potential investors from the public/private sector.

Railway crossing in Assam

763. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of railway crossings in Assam;

(b) the number of such crossings on which underbridges or overbridges are proposed to be constructed; and

(c) the reasons for not constructing such bridges in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN ^FHE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) 1275 nos.